

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

O F   T H E

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

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YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1971.  
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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1971.

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To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses  
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the Boston  
Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report as Port Medical Officer  
for the year ending 31st December, 1971, which has been prepared in accordance  
with Form Port 20 issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

During the year there was an increase in the number of ships  
entering the Port. There were 892 from foreign ports compared with 842 in  
1970, an increase in tonnage from 224,405 to 261,730. There was also an  
increase in coastwise shipping, 133 compared with 91 in 1970. This represented  
an increase in tonnage from 20,649 to 28,560. The total number of ships was  
1,025, an increase of 92 compared with the previous year. This gave a total  
tonnage of 290,290. The figures for the past few years were as follows :-

1965	-	372,473
1966	-	318,622
1967	-	282,438
1968	-	273,847
1969	-	260,691
1970	-	245,054

The number of ships inspected by the Port Health Inspectors was  
131. There were 48 Deratting Exemption Certificates issued. No cases of  
infectious diseases were notified on any of the ships entering port nor did  
any occur whilst in dock.

On the 1st January, 1971 the Public Health (Ships) Regulations,  
1970 came into operation. These regulations provide for public health control  
of ships arriving at or leaving ports in England and Wales and conform with the  
current International Health Regulations of the World Health Assembly.

I should like to thank the H.M. Customs and Waterguard Officers  
for their help and co-operation in all matters; the Port Health Inspectors, the  
Port Manager and his Staff and all others associated with the Port for their  
continued assistance.

Yours faithfully,

G. HIRD.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
6, Bridge Street,  
BOSTON, Lincs.

February, 1972.

SECTION 1 - Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of officer.	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
HIRD, G.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	1- 5-58.	M.B.,Ch.B., D.P.H.	Assistant C.M.O.- Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health- Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health-Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G.E.	Chief Port Health Inspector.	15-10-45.	Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
MILSOM, D.H.	Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.	1-10-59.	Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
BOWRAN, C.D.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	17- 7-67.	Dip. P.H.I.E.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone ) Public Health Department,  
number of the Medical ) 6, Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs.  
Officer of Health. ) BOSTON 4601 (six lines)

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Port Health Inspectors.	
Foreign Ports.	892.	261,730.	Nil.	128.	Nil.
Coastwise.	133.	28,560.	Nil.	3.	Nil.
Total.	1,025.	290,290.	Nil.	131.	Nil.



SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ...	Number of passengers INWARDS : 58. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 29.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	Principal IMPORTS : Aluminium, Animal Feeding Stuffs, Anthracite, Deals, Battens and Boards, Fertilizers, Fruit and Vegetables, Glucose, Grain, Paper, Perlite, Potatoes, Sand, Sleepers, Starch, Steel, Telegraph Poles and General.  Principal EXPORTS : Cattle, Coal, Fertilizers, Grain, Potatoes, Steel, Steel Scrap and General.
FOREIGN PORTS from which ships arrive ...	BELGIUM : Antwerp. CANARY ISLANDS : Palma. CYPRUS : Famagusta. DENMARK : Esbjerg, Frederiksvaerk, Orehoved, Skagen. EGYPT : Alexandria. FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Kasko, Kotka, Mantyluoto, Yxpila. FRANCE : Bayonne, Brest, Bordeaux, Caen, Dunkirk, Le Legue, St. Malo. GERMANY : Bremen, Duisburg, Emden, Hamburg, Lubeck, Wismar. GREECE : Milos. HOLLAND : Amsterdam, Delfzijl, Koog Aan de Zaan, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Ymuiden. ITALY : Naples, Porto Torres, Salerno. MALTA : Valletta. NORWAY : Aaheim, Husnes, Kristiansand, Moss, Tofte. POLAND : Danzig, Gdansk, Stettin. PORTUGAL : Leixoes, Lisbon. RUMANIA : Constantza. RUSSIA : Archangel, Kem, Leningrad. SARDINIA : Oristano. SPAIN : Carthagenas. SWEDEN : Gefle, Gothenburg, Karlstad, Kristinehamn, Lidkoping, Westervik.

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SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

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SECTION V - Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

- (a) The District.
- (b) Shipping.

The supply for both (a) and (b) is obtained from the  
 East Lincolnshire Water Board.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

Frequent bacteriological examinations of the water are carried out and all the reports have been satisfactory.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

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SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1970.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

The Port Manager, the Pilot Master and H.M. Customs are each supplied with a list of infected areas which is amended as necessary from the Weekly Epidemiological Record published by the World Health Organisation.

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2) ).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b) ).

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

The pilot cutter "Arthur Lealand" is fitted with a V.H.F. and M.F. telephone and information of vessels requiring special attention is transmitted by the pilots to the Dock Master's Office. The Medical Officer is immediately informed by telephone and the vessel can be sent to the Quarantine Station to await the Medical Officer.

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

(a) Within the Docks : The vacant berth in Boston Dock.

(b) Outside the Docks: The Quarantine Station - "Clay Hole".



5. Arrangements for :-

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox - see Section VII ) :

Such accommodation is available at the White House Hospital, Fishtoft.

- (b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts :

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed postcards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

The cleansing and disinfection of ships is carried out by the Port Health Authority's staff under the supervision of the Chief Port Health Inspector.

Clothing, bedding and other portable articles are dealt with at the disinfecting station.

Arrangements have been made for the cleansing of verminous persons at the Health Centre, London Road.

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SECTION VII - Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Hallwood Smallpox Hospital, Chapeltown. The administration of this Hospital is carried out from Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield - Telephone No. Sheffield 33941.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

The transport of all cases of smallpox is the responsibility of the Leicester County Council who will provide ambulances together with specially trained and vaccinated crews.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. P.J. Moroney,  
Consultant in Infectious  
Diseases,  
Lodge Moor Hospital,  
Sheffield, 10.

Dr. G. Nisbet,  
The Town Hall,  
Bridge Street,  
Peterborough,  
Northants.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor K. McCarthy, Department of Medical Microbiology, Medical School, Ashton Street, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Out-patient clinics are conducted at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, from 9.30 a.m. onwards each Tuesday. If necessary special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient treatment can be arranged by the Consultant Venerealogist.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspections.

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1971.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1971.

SECTION XIII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln, but during 1971 no bodies were recovered from ships using the port.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category.	Number.
Black rats .....	Nil.
Brown rats .....	Nil.
Species not known .....	Nil.
Sent for examination .....	Nil.
Infected with plague .....	Nil.



TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships on arrival from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons.	29.
Ships from 301 - 1,000 tons.	19.
Ships from 1,001 - 3,000 tons.	Nil.
Total.	48.

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SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Number of ships inspected : 131.

Nature of Nuisances.	Found.	Remedied.
Defects of Original Construction.	Nil.	Nil.
Defects due to Wear and Tear.	9.	4.
Dirt, Vermin, etc.	2.	2.

	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Complied with.</u>
Statutory Notices	Nil.	Nil.
Other Notices	11.	6.

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations,  
1934 and 1948.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds both within and without the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

24 mussel samples were examined during the year, with the following results.

Less than 5 faecal coli per ml. of body tissue.	20.
5 to 15       "       "       "       "       "       .	4.
More than 15   "       "       "       "       "       .	Nil.

This shows that there are still mussel beds in the Wash that are virtually free from pollution but they are several miles out and beds that a few years ago were yielding satisfactory mussels now appear to be polluted.

No action was necessary during the year 1971, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

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SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port for the landing of aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants.

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SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

Food Inspection.

The principal food imports were as follows :-

<u>Commodity.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>
Potatoes.	20,481.
Onions.	16,095.
Tomatoes in Tins.	5,136.
Tomato Puree.	4,138.
Fruit in Tins.	1,797.
Honey in Drums.	1,214.
Gherkins in Brine.	667.
Cauliflowers in Brine.	605.
Cherries in Tins and Casks.	239.
Walnuts in Brine.	235.
Pineapple in Tins.	218.
Dehydrated Onions.	179.
Potatoes in Tins.	125.
Pears in Tins.	104.
Macaroni.	73.
Diced Tomatoes.	70.
Vegetables in Tins.	63.
Garlic.	40.
Tomato Juice.	36.
Miscellaneous.	93.
<u>Grain. (Mainly for Animal Feeding Stuff).</u>	
Inwards	48,011.
Outwards	2,740.

During the year the following amounts of foodstuffs were found to be unfit and were destroyed :-

Onions.       12 tons. 7 cwts. 71 lbs.